

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
December 19, 2013

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Barbara B. Smuts, Ph.D., professor of psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2013.

Professor Smuts received her B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1972 and her Ph.D. degree from Stanford University in 1982. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1983, and was promoted to associate professor in 1988, and professor in 1994. From 1990-95, Professor Smuts held an additional appointment as associate research scientist in the Center for Human Growth and Development.

An internationally recognized scholar, Professor Smuts is best known for her research on animal behavior. She conducted pioneering research on friendships between adult female and male baboons. Her findings revealed unsuspected complexity in primate social relationships and set the stage for subsequent work by others on animal social bonds. Her groundbreaking research on male aggression toward females highlighted a little known facet of animal behavior and opened a new line of scientific inquiry. Professor Smuts authored numerous journal articles, book chapters, and two books entitled *Sex and Friendship in Baboons* (1985) and *Primate Societies* (1987). The latter book has served as the standard reference for an entire generation of scientists and remains a classic in the field. More recently, her research has explored domestic dog behavior with a special emphasis on play.

A talented instructor and dedicated mentor, Professor Smuts taught undergraduate and graduate courses and served on numerous thesis committees. She also served on committees across the University including presidential committees and at the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, the Center for Human Growth and Development, and the Evolution and Human Adaptation Program. Her numerous honors include the Henry Russel Award (1987), the National Science Foundation's Presidential Young Investigator Award (1988), the Excellence in Education Award (1991), and the Excellence in Research Award (1995). She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1993.

The Regents now salute this distinguished researcher and teacher by naming **Barbara B. Smuts professor emerita of psychology**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2013